

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 2002-714

December 3, 2002

SMALL POINT WATER COMPANY
Proposed Change to Meter Rates

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

We allow the Small Point Water Company (Company) to change from a billing system based upon fixture rates to a system based upon a fixed service charge plus a consumption charge. The consumption charge will be based on the prior year's consumption for each customer. The proposed charges are designed to produce the same total revenues as produced by the existing fixture rates.

II. BACKGROUND

On June 18, 2002, the Company filed with the Commission a letter requesting approval of its proposed change in rate structure, from fixture rates to meter rates, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. §307. The District proposes to maintain annual operating revenues of \$30,000, approved by the Commission in Docket No. 97-969. The current rates became effective May 1, 1998.

The Company reports that it sent a notice to each of its customers and held two meetings with most of the community in attendance. The Company's initial request states that the "membership and the Board of Directors has recently voted to invoice in a more equitable and conservation promoting fashion through metering." The meters were purchased and installed last year (2001). Commission Staff assisted the Company with the preparation of a rate sheet, which the Company filed on August 26, 2002 and again on October 10, 2002. The proposed charges are to become effective for the 2003 season on January 1, 2003.

III. DECISION

We have completed a preliminary review of the District's proposed metered rates. We find, based upon the information provided in the filing and obtained verbally and by e-mail from the Company's President that the proposed charges appear to be just and reasonable. We will approve the proposed rate change.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the Small Point Water Company Schedule of Rates, consisting of Sheet 1 – Second Revision, filed on October 10, 2002, will become effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2003, as proposed.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 3rd day of December, 2002.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Diamond

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Nugent

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.